



MCSS NEWSLETTER

MCSS FALL CONFERENCE HELD IN HISTORIC NATCHEZ

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To begin making your plans **now** to attend this year's fall conference...

- Send in your pre-registration **now** and save \$10!
- Reserve your room **now** by calling the Hilton Hotel at 1.601.957.2800. Be sure to ask for the special MCSS rate!
- Submit a session proposal **now** to share teaching resources and strategies!
- Invite your colleagues **now** to come along! See you in Jackson!!!

The 2006 Mississippi Council for the Social Studies fall conference was held at the Natchez Convention Center on October 16-17. The theme of the conference was *Social Studies: Promise and Practice*. A record high number of members were in attendance.

A number of the conference sessions provided information about social studies programs and projects. These included sessions on the Natchez Trace Project, the Japan Fulbright fellowship, Mississippi History NOW, the Mississippi Subject Area Testing Program, Promote the Vote, the Smithsonian's New Harmonies traveling exhibit, and National History Day. Other sessions offered tips on successful strategies for teaching history, geography, economics, and civics.

On Tuesday, participants were treated to appearances by two well known Mississippians. Walt Grayson, Host of Mississippi Educational Television's *Mississippi Roads*, was the special guest during the Monday morning plenary session. Mr. Grayson entertained members with stories of his experiences traveling around the Magnolia State. During the business luncheon, MCSS was most honored to have The Honorable William Winter as the key-

note speaker. Former Mississippi Governor Winter addressed the group concerning critical junctures in the history of social and education reform over the past several decades. He also spoke to the importance of social studies education. Following the luncheon, the Governor sat for a book signing of the recently published *The Measure of Our Days: Writings of William F. Winter*. Winter was accompanied at the signing by Andy Mullins, the book's editor.

Other highlights of the conference included a video session on the Natchez Cemetery, an evening reception at the Eola Hotel, and the always popular Vendor Alley. During the awards presentations on Tuesday, James Reed received the Past President's Award, and Erma Gay Jones was named the Jesse Palmer Outstanding Social Studies Educator of the year.

The 2007 conference will be held October 15-16 at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson. For information about this year's conference, contact Jennifer Nance (jnance@clinton.k12.ms.us) or Susie Burroughs (sburroughs@msstate.edu).

A Message from President Nance

On behalf of the Mississippi Council for the Social Studies, I would like to commend you on your taking an active role in social studies education and thank you for your services both in and out of the classroom to influence the social studies. I look forward to working with you and your colleagues as you address issues that affect social studies educators over the next year.

The National Council for the Social Studies defines social studies as "the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence." The mission of the Mississippi Council is to provide leadership, service, and support for all social studies educators, while providing students with knowledge and historical perspective, intellectual skills, and civic values needed to fulfill the duties of citizenship in a participatory democracy.

As you are undoubtedly aware, social studies educators realize that the well-being of our state and nation depend upon a well-informed and civic-minded

citizenry. Through effective social studies instruction, we can develop our students' civic efficacy and social understanding. As a social studies educator, I am concerned that social studies is getting short-changed in the classroom as teachers and administrators focus almost exclusively on achievement test results in math and reading. If Mississippi students are to succeed in the global market place of the 21st century, it is the teaching of social studies, science, and other core disciplines that will serve as the means to stimulate interest in academics and prepare students for their roles as citizens.

Please join us in October as MCSS equips you with new, exciting, research-based practices that you can share with your students and colleagues. The Mississippi Council for the Social Studies looks forward to working with you, as well as providing any support or resources that may be vital to you, social studies educators.

Jennifer Nance

Standing Committee Formed to Address Membership Issues

At the January officers' meeting, by virtue of the authority of the MCSS Constitution, President Nance formed a standing committee to address issues related to membership. The charge of the new Membership Committee is two-fold. First, the committee will seek to determine ways to increase membership in the Council with particular attention paid to growing the numbers of new and

pre-service teachers, coaches, and members of diverse ethnic and racial groups. Secondly, the committee will strive to identify ways to encourage members of these underrepresented groups to assume active roles in MCSS in terms of service to and leadership of the organization. Please forward ideas and suggestions you may have to Kim Este (kimeste@bellsouth.net).



The successful revolutionary is a statesman, the unsuccessful one a criminal.

Erich Fromm
psychoanalyst
and author (1900
-1980)



He who exercises government by means of his virtue may be compared to the north polar star, which keeps its place and all the stars turn towards it.

Confucius,
philosopher and
teacher
(c. 551-478 BCE)

News From the National Council for the Social Studies

The 86th National Council for the Social Studies conference was held in Washington, D.C. December 1-3. MCSS members in attendance included Susie Burroughs and Steven White.



NCSS, founded in 1921, is devoted to social studies education.

Burroughs currently serves as a member of the Nominations and Elections Committee, Chair of the Teacher Education and Professional Development Committee, and member of the Houston Conference Planning

Committee. While in D.C., White served as the MCSS House of Delegate representative.

The 2007 NCSS Conference will be held in San Diego on November 30-December 2. The theme for the conference is *Crossing Borders, Building Bridges*. With over 25,000 members, NCSS is the leading professional organization for social studies educators. To learn about the benefits of becoming a member of NCSS www.ncss.org.



*Some people
walk in the rain,
others just get
wet.*

Roger Miller,
musician
(1936-1992)

2007 MCSS Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President: Jennifer Nance—Clinton

President-Elect: Steven White—Brandon

Vice President: Kim Este—Summit

Secretary: Bettye Chamberlain—Charleston

Treasurer: Joyce Newell—Tupelo

Past President: Wendy Tucker—Brandon

Executive Director: Susie Burroughs—Laurel

Ex Officio: MDE Specialist—Chauncey Spears

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

CD 1: Dr. Kathy Clayton—New Albany (06-07)

Marlo Hendrix—Tupelo (07-08)

CD 2: Bill Patrick—Jackson (06-07)

Martha Hutson—Clinton (07-08)

CD 3: Jim Johnson (07) (appointed to fill vacancy)

Vicky Vance—Florence (07-08)

CD 4: Gayle Greene-Aguirre—McHenry (06-07)

Gayle Henshaw (07-08)

At-Large: Dr. William Russell (07)

James Reed (07-08)

Call for 2008 Board of Directors Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2008 MCSS Board of Directors. To nominate yourself or someone else to be considered by the Nominating Committee as a potential candidate for the MCSS Board, submit the following information:

- (1) position the nominee would like to be considered for (i.e., officer or director position)
- (2) name and contact information of the nominee (please provide address, telephone, and e-mail)
- (3) brief description of the nominee's qualifications for the position
- (4) names and contact information of two professional references

Mail this information to:

Nominating Committee
Dr. Susie Burroughs, Chair
Department of Curriculum and Instruction - Box 9705
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Deadline for nominations: September 15

New and pre-service teachers, coaches, and members of diverse ethnic and racial groups are especially encouraged to consider running for a board position. For information on the responsibilities of officers and directors, please contact any member of the current BOD.

**MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE
CALL FOR PROPOSALS**
Conference Theme: *Crossing Borders, Building Bridges*
Hilton Hotel—Jackson
October 15-16, 2007

Title of session: (10 words or less) _____

Description of the session: (30 words or less)

Audience: _____ elementary _____ middle level _____ high school _____ general

Strand: _____ history _____ geography _____ civics _____ economics _____ general

Equipment Needed: _____ overhead projector & screen _____ VCR & TV

Lead Presenter _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Telephone _____ Evening Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Co-presenter _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Telephone _____ Evening Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Statement of Intent: Should this proposal be accepted, I agree on behalf of all presenters to conduct the session on the date and time scheduled. I understand that as presenters for the conference, we will serve on a contributing basis and **all presenters will be required to register at the regular conference rate.** I further understand we will not be reimbursed for travel expenses, equipment fees, or conference registration.

Signature of Lead Presenter _____ **Date** _____

Mail proposal to:

Dr. Susie Burroughs

Department of Curriculum and Instruction - Box 9705

Mississippi State, MS 39762

*** **DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CONFERENCE PROPOSALS: JUNE 1.*****

Lead presenters will be notified of acceptance status by e-mail on or before September 15.

**MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES
FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION/MEMBERSHIP FORM**
Conference Theme: *Crossing Borders, Building Bridges*
Hilton Hotel—Jackson
October 15-16, 2007

(Please type or print.)

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Telephone _____ Evening Telephone _____

E-mail Address _____

Check One: Elementary Middle/Junior High High School
 College/University Pre-service/Student Other

Circle the CD in which you vote: CD 1 CD 2 CD 3 CD 4

PLEASE SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

I. To pre-register for the conference - postmark deadline October 1:

To pre-register for the fall conference, MCSS regular members enter _____
\$65.00 on this line. Lifetime MCSS Members enter \$45.

II. To register for the conference - after October 1:

To register by mail after October 1 or to register on site, MCSS regular members enter \$75 on this line. Lifetime MCSS members enter \$55. _____

***** Please note:** Pre-registration or registration for the conference includes the Monday evening welcome reception, all conference sessions, the luncheon and business meeting on Tuesday, and membership dues for 2008.

III. To renew your MCSS membership only:

If you will be unable to attend the fall conference but would like to renew Your MCSS membership for the 2007 year, enter the appropriate amount on this line. (Regular: \$20—Retired or Student: \$10—Lifetime: \$150) _____

Mail this form along with a check, money order, or pre-approved purchase order to:

Joyce Newell; MCSS Treasurer; 1209 Winwood Drive; Tupelo, MS 38801

***** Checks, money orders, and purchase orders must be made payable to MCSS. *****

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

To pay by purchase order, a pre-approved purchase order must accompany your registration form when it is submitted to the Treasurer. There are no exceptions to this policy. Requests for cancellation of registration and refund of monies paid must be made in writing to the MCSS Treasurer two weeks prior to the conference.

**MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES
THE JESSE PALMER SOCIAL STUDIES
EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Mississippi Council for the Social Studies invites nominations of educators to be considered for the 2007 Jesse Palmer Social Studies Educator of the Year Award. Established in memory of Dr. Jesse Palmer, this award is given each year to an educator who demonstrates exemplary knowledge, skills, and dispositions in promoting quality social studies education in Mississippi schools.

To be considered for this award, an educator must have at least three years of teaching experience, be currently involved in a social studies-related profession, and submit an application packet that includes the following:

I. Vitae

- A. Name and contact information (address, phone number, e-mail)
- B. Current and past education-related employment
- C. Educational background (degrees held, specialized training, other)
- D. Positions of leadership held (professional, civic, other)
- E. Honors and awards received
- F. Participation in professional organizations (memberships, service, other)
- G. Workshops, seminars, professional development of note (organized, presented, attended)
- H. Other relevant information as deemed appropriate

II. Questionnaire (Answer each of the following in a paragraph or more.)

- A. Why did you choose to become a professional educator?
- B. What is your philosophy of teaching?
- C. What is your approach to social studies education?
- D. In what ways do you “go above and beyond” to be the best professional you can be?

III. Supporting Documentation

- A. Letter of recommendation from a current supervisor
- B. Letter of recommendation from a current colleague
- C. Letter of recommendation from a current or former student

**To be considered as an award recipient for this calendar year,
application packets must be postmarked no later than September 1 and mailed to:**

MCSS Awards Committee
Kim Este, Chair
1066 Lake Front Drive
Summit, MS 39666

**Questions about this application process should be e-mailed
to Kim Este at kimeste@bellsouth.net.**

Introducing Your Officers...

President Jennifer Nance teaches high school social studies at Clinton High. The 2004 winner of the Palmer Award, Jennifer has served on the MCSS Board for six years.

Having served as both a CD 3 Director and as the MCSS Vice President, **President Elect Steven White** is involved with the Mississippi Youth Legislature and the Mayor's Youth Council. He teaches at Rosa Scott School in Madison. Steven was the recipient of the 2003 TOY Award.

Vice President Kim Este teaches eleventh grade history at Summit High School. She has been an active member of MCSS since joining the teaching profession seven years

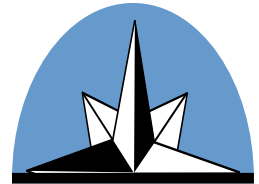
ago. An avid traveler, Kim has conducted numerous sessions around the state, informing teachers of fellowships, grants, and other funding opportunities for teacher travel.

A 35-year veteran teacher and MCSS member for over 25 years, **Secretary Bettye Chamberlain** teaches history and geography at Charleston Junior High. A devoted member, Bettye has served as the organization's secretary for over a decade.

A member of MCSS since the early 1990s, **Treasurer Joyce Newell** teaches geography and history at Saltillo High School and Itawamba Community College. As treasurer, Joyce has the important task of overseeing the organization's fiscal matters.

Immediate Past President Wendy Clemons Tucker is an Assistant Principal at Brandon Middle School. A social studies teacher of 15 years, Wendy has served on the MCSS Board as a CD 2 Director, as President Elect, as President, and as an Ex Officio member while employed as the MDE Social Studies Specialist.

The MCSS Executive Director, Susie Burroughs, is an Associate Professor of Education at MSU. Susie taught social studies and social science courses at the middle, secondary, and two-year college levels prior to joining the faculty at MSU. She is an active member in both MCSS and NCSS.



There is wisdom in turning as often as possible from the familiar to the unfamiliar: it keeps the mind nimble, it kills prejudice, and it fosters humor.

George Santayana, philosopher (1863-1952)



Information is the currency of democracy.

Thomas Jefferson third US president, architect and author (1743-1826)

2007 Calendar of Events

January 27: Officers' Meeting—Jackson
 April 21: Board of Directors' Meeting—Oxford
 June 1: Deadline for Conference Session Proposals
 September 1: Deadline for Palmer Award Applications
 September 15: Deadline for BOD Nominations
 September 23: Deadline to receive the MCSS Special Rate at the Hilton Hotel
 October 1: Deadline for Conference Pre-Registration
 October 15-16: MCSS Annual Conference—Jackson
 December 1-3: NCSS Annual Conference—San Diego

For information about these and other MCSS/NCSS events, contact Jennifer Nance (jnance@clinton.k12.ms.us) or Susie Burroughs (susie.burroughs@msstate.edu) or visit the MCSS web site at www.msstate.edu/org/mcss.

Dr. Susie Burroughs
MCSS Newsletter Editor

Mississippi State University
Dept. of Curriculum and Instruction
Box 9705
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Phone: 662.325.7124
Fax: 662.325.7857
E-mail: susie.burroughs@msstate.edu



MISSISSIPPI
COUNCIL FOR THE
SOCIAL STUDIES,
AN AFFILIATE OF
THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR THE
SOCIAL STUDIES

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THE GEORGE WASHINGTON TEACHER'S INSTITUTE

INSTITUTE DATES: JUNE 9-15, 2007

EXPLORE THE CHARACTER AND ACCOMPLISHMENT OF GEORGE WASHINGTON WHILE LIVING ON HIS 18TH-CENTURY ESTATE.

George Washington played a major role on the world stage for almost fifty years. From the early 1750s until his death in 1799, he stood at the center of every significant event in American history. To his contemporaries Washington was the symbol of a new and growing nation. Established in 1999, the George Washington Teachers' Institute is a highly competitive program that brings teachers to Mount Vernon, Virginia for an intensive week of study at Washington's home. Teachers engage in an active exploration of 18th-century history with top historians while participating in interactive workshops, tours, fieldtrips, and group projects. Participating teachers immerse themselves in the study and discussion of this critical period of American history and the remarkable role George Washington played in the founding of our nation. Teachers of grades 4-12 are eligible to apply.

For an application, please contact Wendy Tucker, 408 South College Street, Brandon, MS 39042, or e-mail wendy.tucker@rcsd.ms. Please include an e-mail contact and phone number. All teachers accepted into the Institute will receive a travel stipend of up to \$350 and reside on the grounds of George Washington's home. Participants are required to complete one lesson plan for dissemination to teachers across the nation on the Mount Vernon web site and conduct a minimum of one in-service program for colleagues in their school, district or state.